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S/1998/1018
30 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMPENSATION COMMISSION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour of forwarding to you a copy of the reply I sent on 20 October 1998 to the Vice-President of Iraq, Taha Yasin Ramadan, in response to his letter dated 30 September 1998 (see annex). Mr. Ramadan sent identical letters to both the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General (S/1998/910).

(Signed) Gonçalo DE SANTA CLARA GOMES
President of the Governing Council of the
United Nations Compensation Commission

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ANNEX

Letter dated 20 October 1998 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission to the Vice-President of Iraq

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 30 September 1998 concerning certain corporate claims from the tourism sector that were referred to in three reports of the Executive Secretary prepared pursuant to article 16 of the Provisional Rules for Claims Procedure (the Rules). The letter has been circulated to all members of the Governing Council.

As you are aware, article 16 reports are intended to indicate the Governments, international organizations or other eligible parties that have submitted claims; the categories of claims submitted; the number of claimants in each consolidated claim; the total amount of compensation sought in each consolidated claim; and any significant legal and factual issues raised by the claims. These reports are circulated to the Government of Iraq as well as to all Governments and international organizations that have filed claims with the Commission. In response to these reports, the Government of Iraq and claimant Governments and international organizations have regularly provided valuable information and views which have been transmitted to the relevant panels of Commissioners for their consideration in the course of resolving the claims.

The article 16 reports do not include any determinations or recommendations in respect of the claims that are reported therein. Such determinations and recommendations are made by the panels of Commissioners responsible, under the Rules, for resolving the claims. The panels' reports and recommendations concerning the claims are then presented to the Governing Council for its consideration. It is the Governing Council that ultimately decides whether the panels' recommendations should be approved.

(Signed) Gonçalo DE SANTA CLARA GOMES
President of the Governing Council of the
United Nations Compensation Commission

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 155
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 30 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to call your attention to a particularly vicious attack perpetrated yesterday by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

At approximately 8 a.m. yesterday morning at the Nezarim junction, a car bomb was detonated, targeting a schoolbus of 40 children on their daily route to class. The bomb instead destroyed an Israeli jeep escorting the bus, which narrowly spared the children.

In the end, the explosion left one person dead and five injured, one of them seriously. Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group opposed to the peace process, took responsibility for the attack. The senior command for this operation involves individuals who have been engaged in terrorist attacks in the past and whose arrest Israel has repeatedly sought.

The killing came several days after Israelis and Palestinians returned from signing the Wye River Memorandum, under which the Palestinians committed themselves to doing everything in their power to prevent such acts before further stages of the peace process would be carried out.

In this context, it must be pointed out that the terrorist unit came from Gaza, which has been under Palestinian jurisdiction for five years. The attack was, in fact, carried out by a terrorist wing of an organization which the Palestinian side has pledged to disband, with weapons it has promised to confiscate, from an area it undertook to supervise. All of these obligations were reaffirmed in last week's pact as absolute requirements for proceeding to the next stage of its implementation.

In response to this horrific attack, it is imperative that the Palestinians start carrying out their written pledge of "zero tolerance for terror and violence" and begin the "systematic and effective combat of terrorist organizations and their infrastructure" (see Wye Memorandum, II:A).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dore GOLD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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